TIMBER TALK

PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS

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Hello!

A noticeably short message, just to confirm that things are brewing for our association!

The Thank You rewards, earned for articles published in Timber Talk, will be mailed to our collaborators at the end of this month. Special Awards will be announced at our AGM. Please see these rewards on page 2 and consider contributing to your newsletter.

Enjoy the Chips… chronicle and see what our former editor and frequent collaborator Judy Blackman have to say about Jim's woods.

Hoping that all of us get our first or second vaccine sooner than later and that we can all meet again soon.

Stay Safe!

France

CAWMC General Annual Meeting (on ZOOM)

Please be advised that our Association's General Annual Meeting will be held on

THURSDAY JULY 22, 2021

At 6:30 PM EDT

Connection details to follow.

Featured Wood of the Month

Orangeville's Sesquicentennial- The Turkey Draw Wood

Purple Turkey Wood 5645-090 Blue Turkey Wood 5645-091

The wooden coin featured this month as your" Free Wood" was the brainwave of two great minds & a wooden money collector and of course good timing. The Town of Orangeville, incorporated in 1863, was celebrating its sesquicentennial. Steve White, a local lawyer, and member of the Knights of Columbus along with Jim Welsh a member of the local council of the K. of C. were looking for additional ideas to improve their Christmas fundraising event. Along with the wooden money collector, the woods were made and sold as souvenirs at the event for $ 3.00 each or two for $5.00. The annual Turkey Draw fundraiser supports local charities to benefit good causes like palliative care, Birthright, the local hospital, student grants and individuals in need. The event was a success.

Dave Gillespie

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Chips from the Woodpile …. By Dave Gillespie

The obituary of Louis Berkowitz was reported in the June issue. Mr. Berkie, a huge manufacturer of wooden nickels and tokens in the United States. He was known by many in the industry as the "King of Wooden Nickels". During his lifetime, his company produced over 206 million wooden nickels. In his personal life he was a strong supporter of many organizations and was remembered as a very giving person. A wood was made in his honour that said "It's Been Magic'.

At 5:00 a.m. one morning Lou Vesh looked out his kitchen window to the northeast to see the Hale-Bopp Comet, an inspiration for making another wood to add to his collection and yours.

The Halifax Coin Club commemorated the 80th anniversary of the city's devastating and earthshaking explosion of 1917 with the production of a wooden nickel. The Halifax Explosion killed 1,600 people and injured several thousand others. It also leveled a square mile of buildings and property at the north end of Halifax and a part of neighbouring Dartmouth. The property damage alone was estimated to be $35 million. The inflationary value of that damage today would be around 26.5 Billion dollars. The disaster happened because of a French ship, the "Mont Blanc" carrying munitions catching fire and exploding after colliding with a Norwegian vessel carrying supplies destined for Belgium. This man made explosion was the largest in history prior to the atomic bomb in Hiroshima.

A booklet entitled "Money Talk" authored by C.A.W.M.C. member Jerry Remick was updated and put into reprint by another C.A.W.M.C. member Jeff Fournier through his company Canadian Novelty Coins of Sudbury, Ontario in 1998. The booklet identifies terms & expressions used for money in both Canada and the United States

To start off 1999, Norm Belsten announced that he had been working on a picture catalogue for Ontario woods and although very time consuming, he had completed about one third of the listed and recorded woods.

Some C.A.W.M.C. members have been known to travel south to Fostoria for it's wooden money show and although the woods on display and for sale are predominately American some Canadian woods can be found. This was how three different woods from Chipman, Alberta were discovered and brought home by Lou Vesh.

Not really sure if they were real or trial woods, even though they looked authentic, he appealed to members for additional information. In a later article he confirmed that the woods were real after hunting them down on a visit to Alberta. A few phone calls were made, some door knocking took place and a meeting with the Mayor of Chipman at a service station he operated proved successful. Additional woods were unearthed, bought and shared as monthly free woods.

The "Fixed Link" wood was created in 1993 to commemorate the signing of contracts to construct a bridge between the provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Two hundred woods were made, 20 of which are now sets with the signatures of the premiers of P.E.I. (Catherine Callbeck) and N.B. (Frank McKenna). The bridge is 12.9 km. long with a typical elevation of 40 meters off the water. The bridge was made up of 66 spans, 65 piers and two abutments. The main components weigh up to 8,200 tonnes each and the finished cost was projected to be $ 840 Million (none of which was to be paid by taxpayers).

When is a wooden nickel "Official"? This was an article by Lou Vesh in the fall of 1999. He set out what he understood to be the guidelines for a U.S. "official" wood and a Canadian "official" wood. In the United States "official" means a wood that had been issued by some level of government or authority or public body. In which case woods issued by individuals, merchants, clubs and business, etc. were simply 'not official'. In Canada the term "official" is generally not used to classify a wood. A Canadian collector is merely concerned with whether or not a wood issued bearing the name of a person, business, place, etc. has been made and issued as intended. If not it is classified as "unofficial" or "maverick". These are interesting guidelines to follow as you work on your collection.

AND now for another quiz question:

Who is the only person (past C.A.W.M.C. member) to have attended every C.N.A. convention from 1954 to 2000 ?

Til next time …… Let the Chips lie where they fall. Dave Gillespie

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Answer to the Quiz Question of May 2021

Q Which member has held the appointed position of Bulletin Editor for the longest period of time?

A. Ross Kingdon – January 1995 to August 2008 (13 years 8 Months)

Jim's Funnies by CAWMC Life Member **Judy Blackman**

Now in our second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in a third wave of it, it seems like we need some fun in our lives! Jim Smith is one of the funniest people I know. He portrays a lot of his humour in his woods. So, here's some I thought you would enjoy!

PROFESSIONAL: Someone who knows not to look surprised when something works correctly

BACHELOR
CARPENTER
ELEPHANT
EXPERIENCE
FARMER
A MAN WHO SPEAKS HIS MIND
Cuts a Board Twice and it is Still Too Short
A MOUSE BUILT by the GOVERNMENT
Something you always get just after you need it
Buys at Retail Sells at Wholesale and Pays the Shipping Both Ways

FISHERMAN
HUNTER
LAWYER
LOGGER
PLUMBER
A Jerk on one end of a line waiting for a Jerk on the other
LIVES IN TWO SEASONS IN and OUT
Someone Who Fights for All that is yours Then takes it as Payment
First Cuts the Trees Down Then Cuts The Trees Up
Always Doing Crack - Up Work

DRINK AT MOE'S
Canadian Bug Squish Coin
BRITISH COLUMBIA
CANADA
If Life is a bowl of CHERRIES
If You Don't Stand For Something
I'd rather have a Bottle in Front of Me than a Frontal Lobotomy
GOOD-BYE
BUG
Working is the PITS
You Might Fall For Anything

BACHELOR; A man who speaks his mind

CARPENTER: Cuts a board twice and it is still too short

ELEPHANT: A mouse built by the government

EXPERIENCE: Something you always get just after you need it

FARMER: Buys at retail sells at wholesale and pays the shipping both ways

FISHERMAN: A jerk on one end of a line waiting for a jerk on the other

HUNTER: Lives in two seasons IN and Out

LAWYER: Someone who fights for all that is yours then takes it as payment

LOGGER: First cuts the trees down then cuts the trees up

PLUMBER: Always doing crack—up work

DRINK AT MOE'S: I'd rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy

CANADIAN BUG SQUISH COIN: Good-bye bug

BRITISH COLUMBIA CRAFT BREWERY: Muck Maxim I can now know I shall awake tomorrow morning with anticipation that I shall feel better by afternoon

IF LIFE IS A BOWL OF CHERRIES: Working is the pits

IF YOU DON'T STAND FOR SOMETHING: You might fall for Anything.

Now ironically I've been trying to find a fly swatter all winter but stores just don't have them this time of year. Some spiders decided to find their way from the back garden into my house, and this bug squish coin could have come in handy.

You Can Eat What You Want Between Christmas & New Years
woodencoin.com
2016
woodencoin.com
Why is it called a WEAKNESS
If You Watch What You Eat Between New Years & Christmas
woodencoin.com
2016
woodencoin.com
When it is STRONGER than I am

Then we have these two woods. One reads: You can eat what you want between Christmas and New Years / If you watch what you eat between New Years and Christmas. The other wood says: Why is it called a weakness / When it is stronger than I am.

The last two woods are uniface. One suggests: All who swear to avoid speeding tickets raise your right foot. The other: Figure never lie but liars often figure.

HA! HA! HA!

With all these woods, Jim would make no less than 100 but in many cases more likely 250-500. All of the woods are 42 mm in diameter and made from beetle kill pine. They are silk-screened and then have a child-safe lacquer applied to keep the images from wearing off.

I hope these woods put a big smile on your face and gave you a belly full of chuckles!

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Life Member Receives A Surprise!

by **Judy Blackman** CAWMC Life Member

Serenity Prayer
God
Grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change
Courage to change the things I can and the Wisdom to know the difference

As a fellow *Woodie,*I think you can appreciate the Absolute joy that I felt when I opened a surprise waiting In my mailbox. This wood is 125 mm in diameter and 12 mm in thickness

Jim Smith (www.woodencoin.com) made large wooden coins that were used as trophies for the Second Likely Car Show. He made several much larger versions for “First Place” and the size of the wood I received was for “Second Place”. Jim had run a few extra blanks when filling the order, and used one to make this wood, which he sent with a custom stand.

As you can see the obverse has “Judy Blackman Life Member” on it. What makes this extra special is the back. I carry the serenity prayer on my keychain. This prayer is very meaningful to me as it helped me through some “rough patches’ in my life. The fact that Jim included this prayer on the back of this wood touched my heart so much!

The Societe Numismatique de Quebec 60 th Anniversary woods program

The Societe Numismatique de Quebec celebrated it's 60 th Anniversary in 2020. Although the physical celebrations were postponed, due to Covid-19 and the resulting health restrictions, the woods program went ahead. The Societe issued a 60 th anniversary wood, using the logo of the SNQ , modified to include the year 1960 and 2020 on the obverse and a special anniversary logo on the reverse.

Each issuing member was asked to describe their own wood. Some of the woods created, and all thoughts behind them, were presented in the April and May 2021 issue of Timber Talk. Here are more woods and descriptions.

REVERSE # 1096 (JACQUES SAVARIA)

I have always been a moose hunter, it is my favorite pastime and I have had a chalet at Chute des Passes in Lac-Saint-Jean for several years (I hunted there with my father for a long time), therefore I chose the moose for my token. At the top I wrote my name and under the moose, my membership number. Jacques cut a total of 60 pieces including 26 piéforts and 34 regulars.

REVERSE # 1107 (LUC GIROUX)

I found out that boats were special to me as I am building a miniature reproduction of the **bluenose**. So, I chose to illustrate ***HMS Shannon*** on my token. I have entered two membership numbers on my token. As my goal is to offer a souvenir to my children and grandchildren to whom I will give each a token, it will indicate to them that I am a member in Quebec and Saguenay. I have been looking to offer them something related to currency for a long time. Luc cut a total of 75 tokens including 26 piéforts and 49 regulars.

REVERSE # 1146 (CHARLES MOREAU)

On my token I have shaped the central circle in the shape of the letter Q to represent Quebec. The dollar sign refers to numismatics, the years indicate the number of years since I have been a member of the SNQ. At the top my name and at the bottom my membership number. Charles cut a total of 60 tokens including 26 piéforts and 34 regulars.

REVERSE # 1154 (GABRIEL CÔTÉ)

As I wanted to have a simple token whose complexity was not going to be a problem during the engraving, I chose to go with typical Canadian icons. In doing so, what could be more representative of Canada than a moose plume and a bottle of maple syrup? In addition, I have placed a wreath in the center of the design to recall an important aspect of Canadian decimal numismatics. When it comes to collecting things, the first thing a newbie learns is to look at the level of wear on the crown. To identify my token, I put my membership number, 1154 (with the maple syrup bottle in the center). The words TRUE NORTH and STRONG & FREE (at the top and bottom of the token) are taken from the English version of O Canada. This phrase serves as the unofficial motto of Canada where life is good. Gabriel has a total of 60 tokens including 26 piéforts and 34 regulars.

Reverse # 1200 (Jean-François Parent)

I chose the bear as my emblem because that's the nickname my family gives me. In choosing the bear, the idea of using the $ 2 as a model was the natural choice. I have added the initials of each member of my family and the little paws are a representation of our little puppy. In addition, I decided to add lilies that refer to our province. If you notice correctly, there is a "Dot" under the word Quebec. And finally, there is a hidden message in Morse code. I invite you to decrypt it. Jean-François cut a total of 60 tokens including 26 piéforts and 34 regulars.

REVERSE # 1201 (YVAN ERNOULD)

Originally from Belgium, I arrived in Quebec in 1983. It was there that I started collecting coins. Why a Rooster? In Belgium, I was from the Walloon region (in the south of the country, if we refer to Brussels, the capital). And the Rooster is the emblem of Walloons and Francophones in Belgium, just as the Fleur de Lys is the emblem of Quebecers. The Walloon flag is yellow with the red Rooster. By illustrating the Rooster, I wanted to make a nod to my origins. Yvan cut a total of 75 tokens including 26 piéforts and 49 regulars.

REVERSE # 1209 (DANIEL BOUCHARD)

The Indian head on my token reminds me of the first American cent I discovered in a pot of Canadian pennies about ten years ago; it made me want to collect American cents and since that time I have collected both American and Canadian money. I was a forest ranger in the Réserve Faunique des Laurentides for three years, soon after I became a member of a motorcycle club and the nickname I was given was WOBO which I wrote at the top of the token. At the bottom, my SNQ member number. Daniel had a total of 60 tokens cut including 26 piéforts and 34 regulars.

REVERSE # 1218 (DENIS GAGNON)

I chose a boat anchor in the center of a rudder because when I was young, I was a Sea Cadet (08 Champlain). It reminds me of my travels in Europe (Portugal, England, the Netherlands) for 2 months on a Canadian warship ***HMCS Presever*** and 1 month in Bermuda on ***HMCS Fraser***. I wrote my name at the top, my membership number in the center and my email address at the bottom. Denis cut a total of 60 tokens including 26 piéforts and 34 regulars.

REVERSE # 1235 (FRANCE D. WAYCHISON)

I chose to surround my name with three symbols representing my not-too-clear belonging and allegiance. I was born and raised in Quebec, represented by the fleur-de-lys, and have spent half of my life in Ontario, represented by its emblem, the trillium. As numismatics have taken me across the country, where I have friends in every corner and where I feel at home everywhere, the maple leaf is also in order. The phrase "laissez le bon temps rouler" (let the good times roll) reminds me a little of my origins. It first appeared on my husband and I's personalized medals in the 1980s and is found on all my wooden tokens issued to date. France has issued a total of 150 tokens including 26 piéforts and 124 regulars, most of which to be distributed to members of the *Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors.*

Ed. Note: there were approximately 30 sets of 26 regular woods made. 26 went to individual issuers. 2 sets are still available for $99 plus postage. Contact glavoie7@hotmail.com for more information.